The licence for sale, storage or distribution of food articles is issued by State/UTs Governments.

The Government of Maharashtra has now issued order under Rule 3 of Maharashtra PFA Rules, 1962 for not issuing licence for Gutkha or any products containing mixture of Supari and Tobacco unless the standard for such product or the guidelines for manufacture of such products are framed by State/Central Government in accordance with Section 3 of the PFA Act, 1954.

Expenditure on Family Welfare Programme

564. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) The percentage of expenditure being made by Government on Health and Family Welfare Programme in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) The action to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the National Health Policy, 2002 public expenditure on health is about 0.9 per cent of the GDP. Under the National Minimum Common Programme, it is proposed to increase public spending on health to at least 2-3% of GDP over the next 5 years with focus on primary health care. This is to be achieved through greater allocation on a mix of programmes/segments which include National Disease Control Programmes, Medical Research and Education, primary health care etc.

Medicated Stents in Heart Patients

565. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there has been indiscriminate use of medicated stents in heart patients with clogged arteries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have asked top cardiologists to come with guidelines which could help check this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for which Government have taken such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The use of drug coated stents began in India in June 2001. Though there has been increase in the use of medicated stents in relation to non-medicated stents from about 8% in 2002 to 38% in 2003, there is no evidence to show indiscriminate use of these stents. However, evidence based, context specific, resource sensitive guidelines are being developed in consultation with eminent experts in the filed.

Shortage of Medicines in Delhi

†566. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been shortage of ten medicines for various diseases including depression, cancer, heart diseases, T.B. etc. since January, 2005 in Delhi and in other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Shortage of psychotropic drugs (benzodiazepines in particular) and anti cancer drug namely Leukeran, Myleran and Alkeran tablets have been reported to the Drugs Control Department of Delhi.

(b) Shortage of psychotropic drugs (benzodiazepines) was reported to be because of difficulties expressed by traders in maintaining records, required under the NDPS Act. Shortage of anti cancer drugs was reported to be because of dis-continuance of the import of these drugs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.